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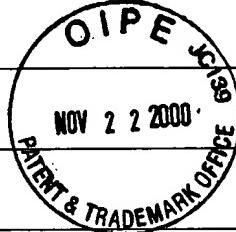
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May 24, 2000

2871



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

TRANSLATION

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent pages, etc.)

A graph showing a piecewise linear function $f(x)$ on a coordinate plane. The x-axis is labeled with values -1, 0, and 1. The y-axis is labeled with values 0, 5, and 7. The function consists of two line segments. The first segment connects the point $(-1, 7)$ to the point $(0, 5)$. The second segment connects the point $(0, 5)$ to the point $(1, 3)$. Both segments have negative slopes.

*Examiner

Andrew Leiberman

Date Considered

10/31/01

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application.

Form PTO-FB-A820 (Also PTO-1449)